

***Testimony in Support of
H. B. 6616, An Act Concerning the Expansion of Huskey Health Benefits to those ineligible due to
immigration status.***

February 13, 2023

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immigration status.***

Dear Senator Lesser, and Representative Gilcrest, and the members of the Human Service Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H. B. 6616, to expand access to the Husky program to un documented people in CT. up to age 26.

My name is Pastor Rodney Wade and I serve as the Senior Pastor of Long Hill Bible Church in Waterbury, CT and we fight for the dignity and equity of underserved and marginalized community members regardless race, sect, and immigration status. We belong to Recovery For All – a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for Connecticut, bring together more than 60 community, faith and labor organizations.

Access to healthcare is a basic human right. People in our community should not have to suffer from acute and chronic pain or disease without the ability to get treatment. Access to care for our immigrant community members would save needless suffering and loss of human potential.

Undocumented immigrants contribute to our communities in ways to numerous to count and despite legislation (Public AC 21-176) that was passed in 2021 many are still being left behind. 58% of the roughly 113,000 undocumented immigrants in CT do not have any form of insurance coverage which is concerning especially in light of our recent global pandemic. The fact is 57% of CT voters support Husky for all Immigrants. We all deserve to live with dignity in Connecticut this is why we must support and fund Husky for all regardless of immigration status.

I support H. B. 6616 and I hope the committee will vote in favor of this critical bill.

Thank you,

Pastor Rodney Wade

Waterbury, CT